

# THE IBIS.

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EIGHTH SERIES.

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No. X. APRIL 1903.

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XIV.—*On a new Stork from Borneo.*

By W. R. OGIIVIE-GRANT.

(Plate V.)

A STORK belonging to the genus *Dissura* was recently shot by Mr. William Morton on the Simunjan River, a tributary of the Sadong, in Southern Sarawak, and subsequently brought to me for identification. An examination of the series of *Dissura episcopus* in the British Museum confirmed the suspicion that this bird belonged to a perfectly distinct species, but disclosed the fact that a similar specimen to that shot by Mr. Morton had been sent home by Sir Hugh Low in 1876. Probably from lack of material the differences between this bird and *D. episcopus* had not been recognised, and the specimen had been catalogued under the latter title. It was obtained on the Mengalong River, North Sarawak (not at Labuan, as stated in the 'Catalogue of Birds'), and bears the following note in Sir Hugh Low's handwriting:—

“This Stork was caught in the forest, on the banks of the Mengalong River, in a springe set for pheasants. I never saw another specimen, and the natives do not know it.”

Shortly after receiving Mr. Morton's example, which he informs me proved on dissection to be an adult female, the British Museum received a third specimen of the same

bird procured at Lamag, Sandakan, in the month of May, by Mr. Graydon. This example is undoubtedly an adult male in full breeding-plumage, and its dimensions, especially the measurements of the bill and legs, exceed those of the specimens previously mentioned.

The following is a description of the species, which has been named in honour of Mr. William Morton:—

*DISSURA MORTONI.*

*Melanopelargus episcopus* Everett (nec Bodd.), Journ. Straits Branch As. Soc. 1889, p. 191.

*Dissura episcopus* Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxvi. p. 294 (1898) [part.; specimen *n'*, ex Labuan].

*Dissura mortoni* Grant, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. p. 26 (1902).

*Adult male.* Resembles *D. episcopus* in general appearance, but differs in the following important points:—It is considerably smaller, the outline of the culmen is slightly concave, and ends in a protuberance in front of the forehead; the bill is vermilion, the bare skin round the eyes and on the throat and neck is orange or orange-yellow; the legs and feet are dull vermilion; the basal half of the neck is clad in black feathers, which extend up the downy white sides of the upper neck in two wedge-shaped patches; both the wing and tarsus are shorter, the latter being more slender. Iris yellow. Total length 31·0 inches, culmen 6·5, wing 16·2, tail 6·2, under tail-coverts 7·0, tarsus 6·5, middle toe without claw 3·0.

The male (type) which is apparently in full breeding-plumage, further differs from all the specimens of *D. episcopus* with which I have compared it in having the interscapular region clad in long, loose, purple-tipped feathers like those of the chest, but it must be added that the British Museum does not possess specimens of the latter species killed during the breeding-season.

*Adult female.* Like the male, but with a somewhat smaller and shorter bill. Iris red; naked skin round eye orange-yellow; bill vermilion, the under part mixed with red and yellow; legs dull vermilion (*W. Morton*). Total length about 30·0 inches, culmen 5·7, wing 15·0, tail 5·3, under tail-coverts 6·4, tarsus 5·5, middle toe without claw 2·7.

	Total length .....	Culmen .....	Wing .....	Tail.....	Under tail-coverts..	Tarsus .....	Middle toe with- out claw .....
Type of male. Lamag, Sandakan. Mr. Graydon.	31.0 in.	6.5	16.2	6.2	7.0	6.5	3.0
Type of female. Mengalong R. Sir H. Low.	30.0 in.	5.7	15.0	5.3	6.4	5.5	2.7
Adult female, Sinnujan R. Mr. William Morton.	30.0 in.	5.6 (im- perfect at tip).	15.6	5.7	6.4	5.5	2.7
Adult male, Nepal. Dr. J. Scully.	37.5 (in flesh). 6.4	19.9	6.7	7.9	7.2	3.6	
Adult male, Behol. Steele Coll.	34.0 in.	6.9	17.5	6.0	7.1	6	3.2
Adult female, Fashoda. Mr. R. M. Hawker.	34.0 in.	6.25	18.5	7.3	8.3	6.3	3.0

*Dissura mortonii.**Dissura episcopus.*

*Hab.* Borneo: Lamag, Sandakan (*Graydon*), Mengalong River (*Low*), Lawas River (*Treacher*), Simunjan River (*Morton*), Sarawak (*Platen*); Tumbong Iliang, S.E. Borneo (*Grabowsky*).

The preceding table of measurements (p. 147) shews the differences in size between the present species and *D. episcopus*.

The figures of the male and female of this bird (Plate V.) drawn by Mr. H. Gronvöld faithfully shew their peculiarities. Considering the number of excellent English naturalists who have spent years of their lives in studying the ornithology of Borneo, it is astonishing that this really remarkable bird should have hitherto escaped notice, and that, with the exception of the specimen procured by Sir Hugh Low seven-and-twenty years ago, none have reached this country in the large collections sent home by Everett, Whitehead, and Mr. C. Hose.

XV.—*A List of the Birds of Lucknow.* By WILLIAM JESSE, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. (Member of the Bombay Natural History Society).—Part IV.

[Concluded from p. 81.]

NO. 1272. CROCOPUS CHLOROGASTER. *Southern Green Pigeon.*

Harrial [H.].

A permanent resident, but restricted more or less to those parts where it can procure the fruit of the banian and pipal. In 'Stray Feathers' Reid wrote:—"The natives here erroneously believe that it never descends to the ground, and even pretend that, when shot, it loses about a pound in weight the moment it comes in contact with it! If asked how it manages to quench its thirst, they will tell you that it settles upon a reed, which bends over with the weight of the bird and enables it to drink! Be all these 'yarns' as they may, it is a very rare occurrence to see a Green Pigeon on the ground—still rarer to see it drinking." To this Mr. A. O. Hume, the Editor, appended the note:—



H. Grönvold del. et lith

Mintern Bros. imp.

DISSURA MORTONI.